

17. *POA SUPINA* SCHRAD. (POACEAE) – A NEW RECORD FOR RAJASTHAN¹SUMAN C. SHARMA², CHANDAN SINGH PUROHIT³ AND ROHITASH KUMAR BHATIA³¹Accepted May 23, 2007²6-K-1, South Extension, Pawanpuri, Bikaner 334 003, Rajasthan, India. Email: sharma_drsuman@yahoo.com³A-187, Antodya Nagar, Behind ESI Hospital, Bikaner 334 001, Rajasthan, India.

During one of the plant collection visits to Malcoat, district Sriganganagar, Rajasthan, we collected *Poa supina* Schrad. from a cultivated field. A perusal of the literature shows that this species has not been reported from Rajasthan (Shetty and Singh 1987-93).

It is known so far from Jammu-Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, in India (Moulik 1997) and from Pakistan (Nasir and Ali 1982). The specimens have been deposited in the Herbarium, Department of Botany, Govt. Dungar College, Bikaner (Rajasthan). The identification of the species is based on Bor (1960).

Poa supina Schrad. Fl. Germ. 1:289; Nasir & Ali, Fl. of Pakistan, no. 143, 399. 1982; Bor, Grasses Burma

Ceyl. Ind. Pak. 561. 1960; Moulik, Grasses and Bambusa of Ind. Vol. II, 533. 1997. *Poa annua* Linn. var. *supina* (Schrad.) Link, Hort. Berol. 1:181. 1827. *Poa ustulata* Frohner in Bot. Jb. 88: 437. 1968; Bor in Rech.f., Fl. Iran. 70:31. 1970.

Perennial, 18 cm high; Leaf blades flat; Ligule blunt, 1.5 mm long; Panicle pyramidal, 2-3 cm long; Spikelets 3.5 mm long; Glume 3.5 mm long; Lemma 3.5 mm long; Anthers 1.3 mm long.

Fl. & Fr.: October-February

Specimen Examined: Cultivated Field, Malcoat, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan. Purohit & Sharma, 3398.

We are grateful to Dr. R.P. Pandey, Senior Scientist, BSI Port Blair for encouragement.

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18. *CURCUMA YUNNANENSIS* N. LIU & S.J. CHEN (ZINGIBERACEAE) – A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA¹M. BHAUMIK² AND H. SAMATI³¹Accepted April 21, 2005²Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Circle, P.O. Laitumkarah; Lower New Colony, Shillong 793 003; Meghalaya, India.

Present address: Central Botanical Laboratory; Botanical Survey of India, P.O. Botanic Garden; Howrah 711 103; West Bengal, India.

Email: dr_manasb@yahoo.com

³Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Circle, P.O. Laitumkarah; Lower New Colony, Shillong 793 003; Meghalaya, India.

Email: hijalsamathi@rediffmail.com

Curcuma L. is a genus mainly from south-east Asia and represented by about 50 species in the world (Delin and Larsen 2000) and 23 species in India (Karthikeyan *et al.* 1989).

During an ethnobotanical plant survey in Jaintia hills of Meghalaya in 2002 some *Curcuma* rhizome were collected and planted in a garden; they flowered the next year. After critical analysis through literature (Delin and Larsen 2000; Baker 1890) it has been tentatively identified as *Curcuma yunnanensis* N. Liu & S.J. Chen, as the type material or any authentic specimen is not available for comparison. It is an endemic species of China (Delin and Larsen 2000), hitherto

not reported from India.

A detailed description, illustration (Fig. 1) and relevant field data based on our own collection is given here to facilitate its easy identification in the field.

Curcuma yunnanensis N. Liu & S. J. Chen, Guihaia 7: 16. 1987; Delin & Larsen, Fl. China 24: 360. 2000.

Local name: Sying iong (Khasi).

Rhizomatous herb 1.3-2 m tall. Rhizomes globose 10 x 7 cm, strongly aromatic, creamish outside, pale yellow inside, with 2-3 sessile tubers, covered by membranous scales, root tubers absent. Pseudo stem to 35 cm tall, terete at base, flat above, brownish red. Leaves 5-6, distichous, petiolate, with

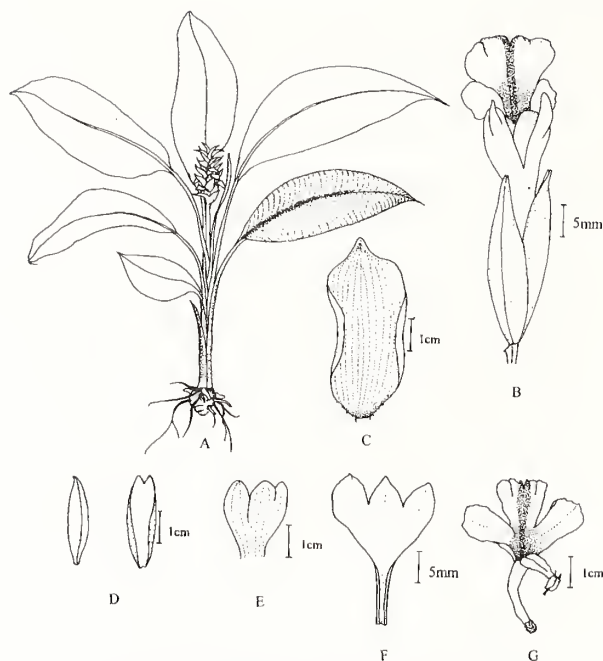


Fig. 1: *Curcuma yannanensis* N. Liu & S.J. Chen.
A. Habit (not in scale); B. Flower; C. Fertile Bract; D. Bracteole;
E. Calyx; F. Sepals spread out; G. Labellum showing stamen
and ovary

sheathing bases. Sheaths 29-35 cm long, brownish red, villous, margins white hairy, lower sheath bladeless. Petiole 8-30 cm long, glabrous, deeply channeled, green; blade 34-71 x 16-26 cm, oblong elliptic, acuminate, entire, glabrous, green with distinct reddish flush on upper 3/4th part along midrib. Spikes arise from center of the leaf sheath, 18 x 9.5 cm, greenish white; flowers usually 3 in each bract, pale yellow; peduncle to 22 cm long, 0.8 cm diameter, greenish white, terete, glabrous. Fertile bracts 4.2-5.7 x 2.8-3.2 cm, oblong, rounded, creamy white, glabrous, reflexed; comma bract 4-6; 5-6.2 x 1.1-2.5 cm, oblong-elliptic, narrowed at rounded

apex, brightly creamy white, apex purple, glabrous; bracteoles 2; 2.8-3 x 1-1.4 cm, oblong-elliptic, boat-shaped, one keeled, apex shortly 2-lobed to inner one; lobe triangular 2.5 mm long, creamy white, glabrous; calyx tubular at base, unequally 3-lobed, 1-1.25 x 0.6-1 cm, creamish white, tube 7-9 mm long; lobe 2-3 mm long, triangular in outline, apex rounded, reddish tint outside, hirsute on outer surface; corolla tubular, 3.5-3.8 cm long, 3-lobed at apex, tube 1.8-2 cm long, lobes 1.6 x 1.2 cm, triangular in outline, apex rounded, entire, deep purple, 6-nerved, glabrous; labellum tubular at base, 3-lobed, pale yellow with deep band from base to apex; tube 2.8-3.2 cm long, lateral lobes 1.5-1.7 x 0.8-1 cm, oblong, rounded apex, reflexed, creamy white, mid-lobe 2.1-2.3 x 1.6-1.8 cm oblong, rounded, reflexed, apex widen with 2 short lobules, margins entire, glabrous; fertile stamen 1, filament flat 1.5 x 0.6 cm, anther 2-lobed; each lobe 4-4.5 x 1-1.2 mm with 3 mm long spurred on both sides; ovary 2.5-3 x 2-2.5 mm, hairy, trilocular, white.

Fl.: July-August.

Distribution: INDIA: Meghalaya (Jaintia Hills); China.

Habitat: This species was found growing on moist shaded places, on slopes, along nullahs.

Specimen Examined: Samathi-108128, Nonjugi, Jaintia hills, 1,300 m, November 2002 (ASSAM).

Uses: Juice of rhizomes is taken for stomach pain and paste of rhizomes is applied to whole body as it is believed to destroy evil spirit.

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19. *STYLOSANTHES FRUTICOSA* (RETZ.) ALSTON (PAPILIONACEAE) - A NEW RECORD FOR RAJASTHAN¹

SUMAN C. SHARMA^{2,3} AND RAMESH K. AGGARWAL²

¹Accepted April 18, 2006

²6-K-1, South Extension, Pawanpuri, Bikaner 334 003, Rajasthan, India.

³Email: sharma_drsuman@yahoo.com

During one of the plant collection visits to Degana tehsil, Nagaur district (Rajasthan), we collected *Stylosanthes fruticosa* (Retz.) Alston from the dry beds of Luni river and

nearby fields. A perusal of literature shows that this genus has not been reported from Rajasthan (Shetty and Singh 1988-1999).